



Travis County Fire Marshal's Office

Hershel Lee, Fire Marshal
P. O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 854-4621, fax (512) 854-6471

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Plan and practice two routes out for Fire Prevention Week

This week is National Fire Prevention Week, and the Travis County Fire Marshal's Office reminds residents to make and practice a home fire escape plan that includes two ways out of every room. The Marshal's Office also reminds the public to install and maintain working smoke alarms.

"When you smell smoke, you will do what you have practiced," said Travis County Fire Marshal Hershel Lee. "If your first route to safety is blocked, you'll have to find another route. Under stressful conditions, such as a fire in your home, it's more difficult to think clearly, so a predesignated second escape route can save your life."

The Fire Marshal's Office encourages residents to:

- Practice fire escape plans with every member of the household including children.
- Have a designated meeting spot outside of the home, so that all home occupants know where to meet. Don't go back into the house. Wait for firefighters to arrive.
- If necessary, use windows as a second route to safety. If the window is on the second story or above, use it as an escape route only as a last resort.
- Call the fire department from a cell phone outside of your home or from a neighbor's house. Never stay in the house after a fire has started.
- Know fire escape safety:
 - Crawl below smoke to avoid high heat and toxic fumes;
 - Check doors before opening. Look for smoke around the frame, and feel the door with the back of your hand. Open doors slowly and carefully.

Finally, make sure your home has working smoke alarms, and check them regularly. According to the National Fire Protection Association, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a fire in half. With a two-exit fire escape plan and a working smoke alarm, residents increase their chance of surviving a fire. For more information, please visit the Travis County Fire Marshal's website at http://www.co.travis.tx.us/fire_marshal/.

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Submitted by: Lisa Block, PIO, Travis County Emergency Services, 512-854-7954.